

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Regardless of the specific type of interconnection between the base member 12 and the face member 16, they are structured to at least partially define an opening or slot 18 between one another (such as a channel, slot, notch, groove, or other opening), the opening 18 being further defined by one or more intersections between the base member 12 and the face member 16, as shown throughout the figures. The opening 18 is structured to receive at least a portion of the necktie therethrough, as will become more clear from the discussion herein, and which may, for example, be an overlying section of the necktie.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 5 and 5-A illustrate yet another embodiment of an attachment mechanism 20 of the necktie assembly 10 of the present invention. Specifically, the attachment mechanism 20 illustrated in Figures 5 ~~and~~, 5-A and 6 comprises a clasp 26. The clasp 26 further comprises a male portion 28 which is structured to securely yet removably engage a female portion 27. As illustrated in Figure 6, the female portion 27 of the clasp 26 may comprise an aperture through a portion of the base member 12, and the male portion 28

may comprise a pin or other protrusion extending outwardly from the underside of the face member 16. It is also envisioned that the male portion 28 may extend outward from the base member 12 while the female portion 27 comprises an aperture in the face member 16.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Also, as shown in the embodiment of Figures 5 and 5-A, both the outer surface 13 and the inner surface 14 of the base member 12 may comprise a convex configuration wherein the opening 18 is structured to receive both the overlying and underlying sections of the necktie. Further, as illustrated in Figure 5-A, the base member 12 and the face member 16 of the necktie assembly 10 may be movably interconnected to one another.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

As illustrated in the embodiments of Figures 13, 14, and 17, the tongue element 19' is disposed on the base member 12 and the groove element 19" is disposed on the face member 16, however, as illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 15 and 16, the tongue element 19' may be disposed on the face member 16 while the groove element 19" is disposed on the base member 12.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 15 through 17 also illustrate a preferred embodiment of the attachment mechanism 20, specifically, an attachment mechanism 20 comprising a biasing element 29. The biasing element 29 may comprise a thin piece of metal or other material exhibiting elastic properties such that the biasing element 29 may be deformed into a compressed configuration under sufficient force, such as illustrated in Figures 16 and 16A, but also having a memory so that the biasing element 29 will return to its initial, substantially uncompressed configuration upon removal of ~~said~~ the force, as is illustrated in Figures 15 and 15A. As illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 18, the biasing element 29 comprises a pair of guide members 29', however, alternate embodiments of the biasing element 29 may have only one guide member 29', or it may include a plurality of guide members 29'. Each of the guide members 29' are structured to be movably positionable within a different one of each of a plurality of guide tracks 29", as illustrated in the figures, to permit disposition of the biasing element 29 between its compressed configuration and its uncompressed configuration.